

1. Aria / Duetto. *Soprano / Tenor*

Sound, ring out and sing, ye strings!
Fill this house of pleasure
with the best songs
that will lead to enjoyment!

2. Recitativo. *Tenor*

Indeed, dear Muses!
Show your heart's delight
as another year begins,
to bring you happiness and well-being,
and to your symphonies
draw yet more patrons.
Thus again at these so happy times I shout:
Sound, ring out and sing, ye strings!

Our life's best pastime
is surely music alone:
for all other pleasures, be it good wine, delicious fare,
the sleigh ride, game, hunt,
and other such things,
in the end, when we've overindulged,
bring damage, pain, annoyance,
or at least trouble.

Music alone knows but goodness.

3. Aria. *Soprano*

All sorrow, all grief
harmony can lay to rest.
As the sea, gently becalmed,
moves its ebbing tide:
So is our human will
moved by the power of sounds
that, free from strife and worry,
refresh us with stillness and peace.

4. Accompagnato. *Tenor*

The pleasure we find outside music
is full of inconstancy.
It leaves us before we let it go.
A reveller cannot feast for long
ere he becomes the doctor's patient.
A player throws down the dice
when luck deserts him;
a hunter who spent
day and night in the woods
often returns without game;
a sleigh rider no longer hears his bells
when the damp west wind
melts the snow –
and this is true of many things.

Soprano

All this Music must not fear:
it resounds today, it resounds tomorrow!

5. Aria. *Tenor*

Heavenly joys, earthly delights,
noblest of sounds, sweetest pleasure!
Let us in your inspiring nature
read perfection's epitome,
which none down here can apprehend.

6. Recitativo. *Tenor*

To its excellence we can also add:
when our body begins to falter
and Age's hand bends the stiffening back,
music can still be our solace.

7. Aria Fughette. *Tenor*

Hail, sleet, wind and weather
cannot stay music's course.
Does winter stalk the streets?
Where strings are heard,
graceful spring is here.

8. Aria. *Soprano*

Further refresh our hearts and minds
and with sweet song,
along with the sound of strings,
joyfully banish tormenting worry!

9. Recitativo con Sinfonia. *Soprano*

Throughout the year, Heaven beheld
this small world, beloved Hamburg!
Blessed be the fathers of this city,
who set the laws in motion,
whose protection keeps the citizens happy,
so each can eat his bread in peace!
Blessed those who toil and worry
for our general salvation;
Blessed be trade, art, industry, all that we do
– and to express it briefly:
May young and old alike be blessed!
For when all these wishes prosper,
our music too will sound twice as good.

10. Ritornello. Aria / Duetto *Soprano / Tenor*

Joyfully the year begins,
and we await its ending.
Should a Lamento interfere:
let music be the symbol;
sounding now fresh, now sad,
as joy and burden are linked in life.